

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3122

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5005

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: JLP DROPS DETENUS

1. THE LEADER OF THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP), EDDIE SEAGA, HAS REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THREE OF HIS PARTY'S CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOW HELD IN DETENTION WILL NOT STAND IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. THE THREE ARE:

SENATOR PEARNEL CHARLES, A DEPUTY LEADER OF THE JLP, ASSISTANT ISLAND SUPERVISER OF THE BUSTAMENTE INDUSTRIAL TRADE UNION, AND JLP THUG, WHO WAS TO HAVE RUN FROM SOUTHWEST ST. ANDREW;

PETER WHITTINGHAM, FORMER JLP YOUTH LEADER WHO BOLTED HIS PARTY FOR THE UNITED PARTY IN 1974 AND RETURNED TO THE FOLD LAST YEAR, WHO WAS CANDIDATE IN EAST ST. CATHERINE; AND

FERDINAND YAP SAM, A MANUFACTURER AND JLP LEADER IN WEST CENTRAL ST. ANDREW FROM WHICH CONSTITUENCY HE WAS TO HAVE RUN. (YAP
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SAM, IN POOR HEALTH, WAS RELEASED

RECENTLY FROM UP PARK CAMP BUT HELD
UNDER HOUSE ARREST.)

2. THE REASON GIVEN FOR DROPPING THE CANDIDATES IS
UNSURPRISING: AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN UNDER
DETENTION THEY CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CAMPAIGN
EFFECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THEY REMAIN IN
DETENTION ALSO RAISES DOUBTS AS TO THEIR SUITABILITY
AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE DAMAGE THIS HAS
DONE TO THEIR CHANCES WAS ALSO CONSIDERED. IT IS
PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY THAT CHARLES AND WHITTINGHAM
WERE TO HAVE RUN FROM CONSTITUENCIES WHERE THE
JLP HAS TRADITIONALLY WON, BUT WHERE IN THE 1974
COUNCIL (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) ELECTIONS, THE RULING
PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) GAINED A VERY NARROW
EDGE. CLEARLY, THE JLP NEEDS ACTIVE-- AND LESS
TAINTED--CANDIDATES IN THESE SEATS.

3. THE SUBSTITUTE CANDIDATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN
NAMED. THEY ARE:

JOSEPH MCPHERSON, EDITOR OF THE VOICE,
THE JLP'S WEEKLY PAPER, A FORMER
SENATOR, AND A ONE-TIME ASPIRANT FOR CONTROL
OF THE BITU, WHO WILL RUN IN SOUTHWEST ST.
ANDREW AGAINST PORTIA SIMPSON;

DERRICK HAMILTON, CONTRACTOR WHO HAS MOST
RECENTLY BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CENTRAL ST.
THOMAS CONSTITUENCY (WHICH IS EXPECTED TO
DISAPPEAR WHEN THE REDISTRICTING TAKES
PLACE), WHO WILL RUN FROM EAST ST.
CATHERINE AGAINST FERDIE NEITA, AND

IRA ASHMAN, A BUSINESSMAN, WHO WILL
CONTEST THE WEST CENTRAL ST. ANDREW SEAT AGAINST
FINANCE MINISTER DAVID COORE.
GERARD

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